# MONTEREY NEWS

May 2000
VOLUME XXX · Number 5

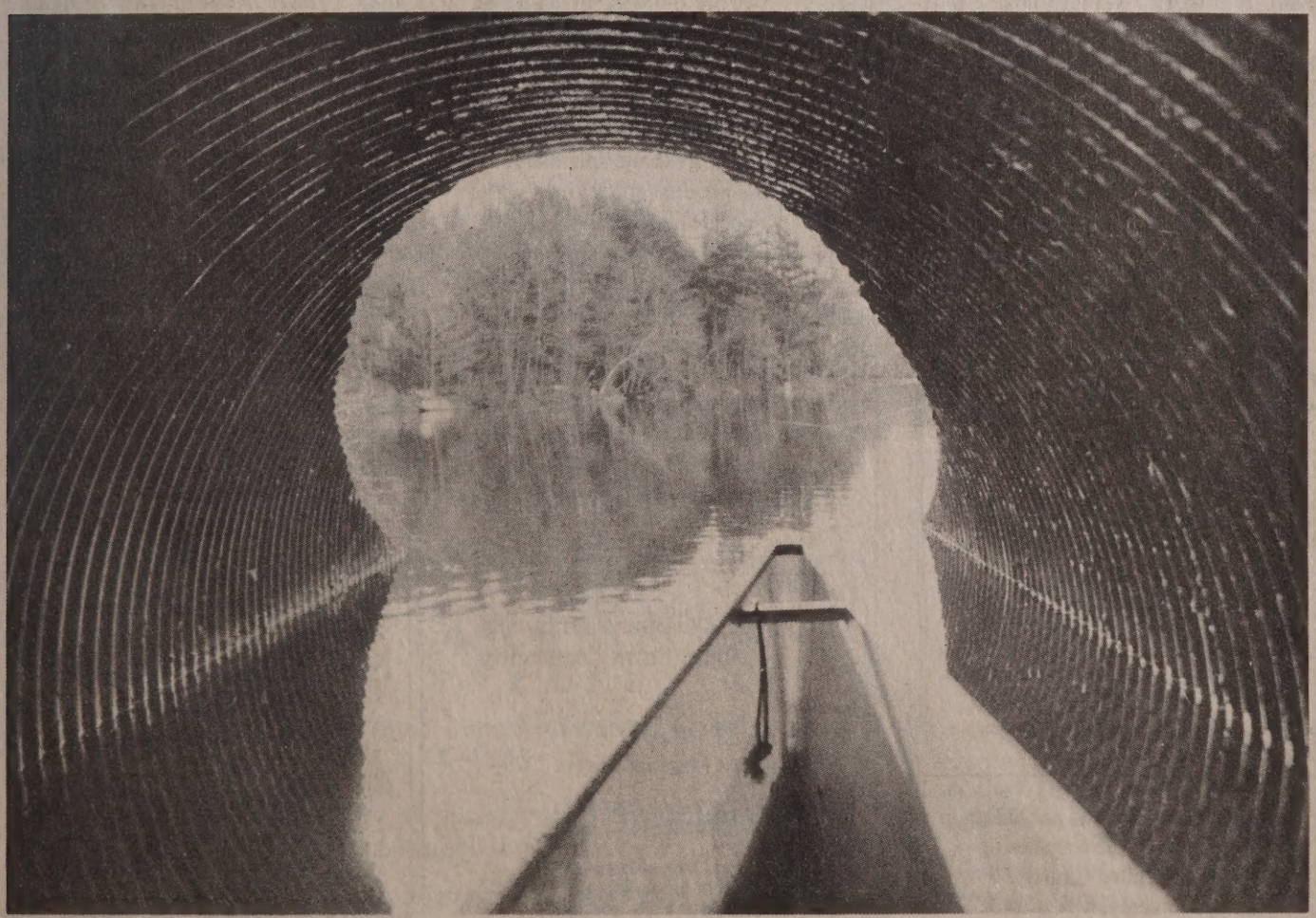

## The Town

**Annual Town Meeting May 6:** The annual Monterey Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 6, at 9:30 a.m. at the Monterey Firehouse. This is a time for all registered voters to come and participate in the governing of the Town. The major item on the warrant is the town budget, which will be reviewed in detail. The proposed budget will increase by three percent in the coming year. Specific items in the proposed budget include $8,000 for the repair of the General Knox wing of the library, $50,000 for a new medical rescue vehicle, and $750 in matching funds to the Lake Garfield Association for an aquatic growth survey.

Other items on the warrant include expanding the membership of the Conservation Commission from five to seven people, and a transfer of property from Gould Farm to the Town, which will require an easement on the land.

Detailed warrants have been sent in the mail. Please read the warrant carefully, as it has been written in a slightly different format than has been used in the past. If you did not receive a warrant or would like an extra copy, please contact the Town Hall. Be sure to bring your warrant with you to the meeting, so that there are enough copies for everyone.

**Town Elections May 6:** Simultaneously with the Annual Town Meeting will be the town elections. Elections will also be held at the Firehouse. Polls open with the Town Meeting,



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*Coming into Lake Garfield from Brewer Pond*

approximately 9:30 a.m. and will close at 6:30 p.m. There are twelve positions open to be voted for. If you will be out of town and need an absentee ballot, contact Barbara Swann, the Town Clerk, at 528-5612. Absentee ballots must be returned by 6:30 p.m. on May 6.

**Edith Wilson House Renovations:** The Edith Wilson House Committee met with the Selectboard on April 3 to discuss plans for the building. Edith Wilson gave the house to the Town when she passed away in 1995, with the stipulation that it be used for municipal purposes.

Discussion centered around the demolition of some of the newer additions to the house, which according to Gige O'Connell were poorly built and are now unsafe. This will leave the older, historical building intact for town use.

The Edith Wilson House Committee will manage the demolition work and will give the Selectboard regular updates on the work. The Committee is presently consulting with contractors about the work. Selectboard Chair Muriel Lazzarini has expressed her appreciation for the way that all parties have worked together on this project.

**A New Start for Keith Snow:** Keith Snow, who has been the pastor of the Monterey United Church of Christ for the past five years, revealed to the church in February that he has decided to leave the pastorate. This decision comes both with positive memories for Keith of the ways that he and the church have grown together, and with a need for stepping back from his responsibilities at the Meeting House to "provide space to look for a new direction to move."

While Keith has pastored several churches before, there have been some unique memories associated with leading this small church in the center of Monterey. One of these highlights was the renovation of the Meeting House in 1998–99. Keith says that the "coming together of the town to financially support the renovation is a notable event," and that the process affirmed that the Meeting House is a focal point in the life of the community.

Keith feels that the relationship of this small church to Monterey is sometimes openly acknowledged, and at times more hidden. However, he says that the church's physical centrality lends importance to what the building symbolizes: "There's a spiritual community here, and the church is a reminder of an important aspect of life." Keith takes with him a sense of thanksgiving for people who have shared their lives and spiritual journeys, and who have accepted him, "warts and all." Monterey has been an accepting and growing place which Keith says has "allowed me to stretch myself in a way I needed to." The future holds some uncertainty for both Keith and the Monterey Church. Members of the church are holding meetings to decide which direction they should go, and at this point they are open to many options. Keith's future is also uncertain. He is not looking for jobs at the moment, and is planning on remaining in Monterey for the next several months.

Keith Snow's last Sunday as pastor of the Monterey Church was April 30, the week after Easter.

**Barn Raising at Gould Farm:** The Timber Framers' Guild will be joining the Gould Farm Community to build a food processing barn in July. There will be a barn-raising festival during "I Love Monterey Days" on July 29. Anyone interested in joining the celebration by bringing a demonstration, hosting a booth, providing entertainment, or lending a hand, please contact Carly at 528-1804.

**Septic Loan Program Extended:** The Board of Health has announced that Monterey's Septic Loan Program, which was to expire in February, has been extended through August. This program extends loans to homeowners for the cost, design, and installation of septic systems. These loans are to be paid back over a period of fifteen years with a minimal interest rate. The loan is available not only for primary homes, but is also open to second homeowners. Any homeowner with a failed septic system may talk to the Board of Health about this program.

—Melissa Hochstetler

The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.



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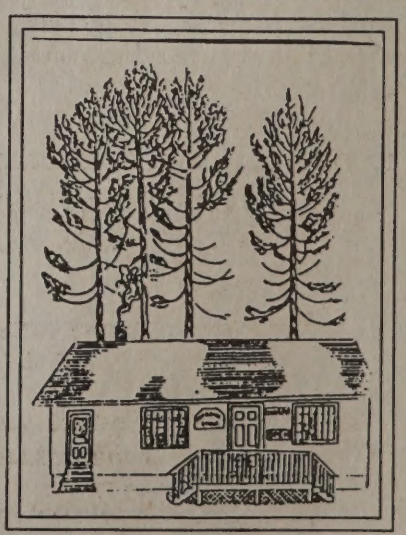

# The Bidwell House Anniversary Celebration

This year The Bidwell House celebrates a double anniversary. The parsonage was built 250 years ago as the home for the first minister, Adonijah Bidwell, and it became a museum 10 years ago. The Bidwell House has planned an ambitious summer program to celebrate these two milestones.

As part of the special anniversary programming, The Bidwell House and Monterey-based Bigger Lighter Theater are collaborating to introduce three highly innovative programs under the umbrella title *Threads & Thresholds: Theatrical Women's History Tour Series*. Expanding historical interpretation techniques, these colorful and lively tours focus on the rarely explored culture of women of the past. The three programs will be *Impressions of Home,* rediscovering the everyday lives of women of the past through an original and creative light; *Through the Looking Glass*, a dramatic tour that bears witness to the interplay of memories and artifacts; *Into the Landscape,* a pageant celebrating the magnificence of place and the heart of home.

Fifteen local women and girls have been chosen to participate in a series of intensive workshops in the collaborative arts. The participants will develop skills in leadership, public speaking, movement, improvisation, and storytelling. These skills will be used to explore interpretation beyond the factual, resulting in the three programs which are creative translations rather than strict recreations of the past.

The project is designed to make connections between local Berkshire women and historical everyday women and to explode these connections out to a large audience, thus connecting the "threads and thresholds" of creativity and culture in all of our daily lives.

*Impressions of Home* will be offered as a preseason program on Saturday, May 13. *Through the Looking Glass* will kick off the season on Saturday, May 27 of Memorial Day weekend. Both programs will begin at 5:30. Admission is $12 for adults, children free. Reservations are advised.

The Bidwell House is honored to have received the Millennium Community Trails Designation, which is a joint project between the White House Millennium Council and the U.S. Department of Transportation. The designation is to recognize and pay tribute to trails unique contributions to local culture and lore. The dedication ceremony, along with a presentation of forest stewardship and a family hike, is scheduled for Saturday, June 3, at 1:00. Participants will meet on the front lawn of The Bidwell House. We recommend that you wear hats, long pants, and long-sleeved shirts as protection from woodland bugs. The program is free to all.

To prepare for this event we have scheduled a trail-cleaning day for Sunday, May 7, at 2:00 p.m. The trail is 800 feet long and requires removal of branches and blowdowns as well as repainting trail blazes on trees. This is a fun way to spend a few hours, meet some new people, and help out a community resource. Bidwell House will provide refreshments.

The Bidwell House enters the twenty-first century with the museum's first web site. Thanks to Bidwell House Board member Pam Johnson who designed the site, it is user friendly, packed with information and photos, and will be updated on a regular basis. Visit us at www.bidwellhousemuseum.org. Thank you, Pam!

Three Berkshire historical organizations have banded together to develop a tour linking the four eighteenth-century historical sites in south Berkshire County. The Bidwell House, the Mission House, and the Colonel Ashley House, run by The Trustees of Reservations, and the Dan Raymond House, operated by the Sheffield Historical Society, are the featured sites. Titled *The Eighteenth-Century Berkshire Experience,* the program has a brochure with a description of each property, a suggested itinerary and an eighteenth century map tracking a back-country-road route to connect them all. Not only for tourists, the tour is an excellent way for Berkshire residents to travel through the history of their county. The brochure also acts as a coupon for $1 off the tour price at each site. Brochures are available at local libraries and B&B's.

For information on these programs please call 528-6888, and please keep posted for upcoming events.

— Anita Carroll-Weldon


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***

I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

# Monterey Land Trust News

Mark the date: Annual meeting and hike will be on July 22, at the "Barway" as usual. Our business meeting will start at 11:00 a.m. and the hikes at 11:30. Everybody welcome to both!

We want to thank all of you who have sent in your membership renewals. Will those of you who have not rejoined please do so pronto?! I hate to say that the bulk of our members have not yet done so.

Incidently, it has been our policy to acknowledge only donations of $250 and over, as required by the IRS. Doesn't it seem a waste of labor and money when 501(c)(3) organizations such as ours spend time and money acknowledging what they are not required to? If you disagree and would like an acknowledgment, we would be happy to provide it. Just call me at 528-0550. The bulk of our donations are in denominations far less than $250 and very much appreciated. They keep us going. Again, Thank You.

Mount Hunger Days! A couple of your board members spent a couple of glorious April Saturday mornings on the trails, clearing and flagging. There were a couple of large and still more small trees downed by winter storms, and these were quickly dispatched by Storrs and his chain saw. Chain sawyers are always most welcome! As of this writing we have only worked on the Vista Trail, but the Ledge and Wood Trails are on the agenda. We would love some help from anyone who has a pair of clippers, good gloves, and a stout heart. If you want to spend the morning of your life on Mt. Hunger, call our president, Suzanne Hoppenstedt, 528-1786. We only work two hours 9–11. Bring bug-spray.

As most of you must know by now, Sally Fijux left the Land Trust $100,000, which we received at the end of last year. In thinking of possibilities of how to use the money in ways that Sally would have approved of, our board has considered a number of ideas. Here are two of them:

Many of you may not know that eight acres of land next to Taft Farm in Great Barrington has been put up for sale. An offer has already been made and accepted. The new owner plans to put a housing development on the land. This is land that has been leased for many years by Dan and Martha Tawczynski of Taft Farms for growing strawberries. The land, like Mt. Hunger, is in Chapter 61 status, which gives the Town of Great Barrington a "right of first refusal" before any sale. The Great Barrington Land Conservancy (a 501[c][3] land trust, like us) convinced the Great Barrington Select Board not to sign that right away for the time being. Under the Chapter 61 statute the Town is able to turn its first right to purchase over to a 501(c)(3) organization. The conservancy is hoping to raise enough in pledges to convince the Select Board that they have the support and will be able to raise the asking price of $184,000. With some state money they have so far raised $134,000.

Our bylaws indicate that a donation of this kind is well within our power. The board agreed that saving fast shrinking agricultural land and open space in the Berkshires is one of the most important issues we can address. Thanks to Sally, we can do it. At a board meeting on April 10 we voted to pledge $1,000 to the Great Barrington effort. As Danny T. pointed out in a recent news article, "They're not making this kind of land anymore".

At an earlier meeting the board voted to donate $1,500 to the Town of Monterey to enable Roger Tryon, the Tree Warden, to purchase trees. Roger has also received a $2,500 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management for planting trees. He is now working on a plan to replace some of the blowdown wrought by the two tornados.

Please call us with your views on any and all matters. I'm at 528-0550 and Suzanne's number is above.

Looking forward to spring and to seeing you around town.

— Joyce Scheffey


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## Noted Historian to Speak in Tyringham

Author and historian John Demos will speak at the Tyringham Town Hall on Saturday, May 20 at 8 p.m., on the subject of his forthcoming book, *The Heathen School: A Story of Hope and Betrayal from Early America,* about a school for Indian and "pagan" youth in northwestern Connecticut during the early nineteenth century.

Educated at Harvard, the University of California, and Oxford, Mr. Demos is currently Samuel Knight Professor of American History at Yale University, having taught previously at Brandeis and Harvard. He is the winner of numerous prizes, including the Francis Parkman Prize in American History and the Ray Allen Billington Prize in Frontier History, both for his book, *The Unredeemed Captive: A Family Story from Early America,* about a 1704 raid on Deerfield by Mohawk Indians and the kidnapping of a Puritan minister's young daughter, who ultimately chose to remain with her captors. He was also finalist for the National Book Award in nonfiction and for the National Book Critics Circle Award in nonfiction. He was awarded the esteemed Frederick Bancroft Prize in American History for his book on witchcraft and the culture of early New England, *Entertaining Satan.* He has written numerous additional books and articles on American history and culture, and is currently a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Mr. Demos lives in Tyringham and commutes to Yale in New Haven. His wife is a psychologist at the Austen Riggs Center in Stockbridge. They have two daughters.

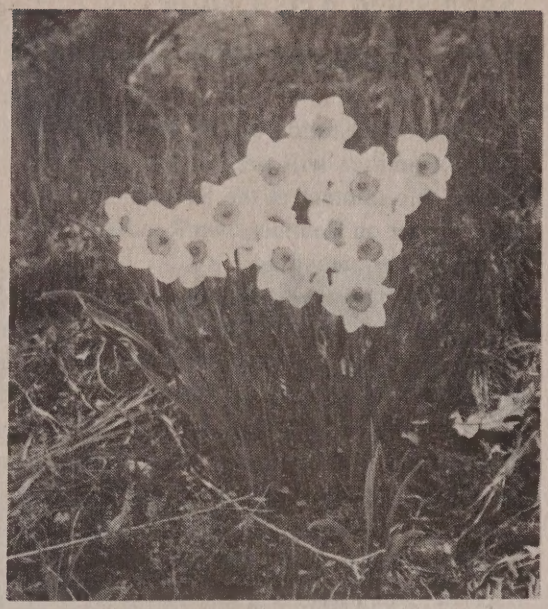
This lecture is one of a series sponsored by the Tyringham Hop Brook Community Club. A free-will offering will benefit the club's scholarship fund for Tyringham high school graduates seeking further education.

## Seminar for Seniors

A seminar for Seniors entitled "Successful Aging in Place" will be held on Thursday, May 18 at the Great Barrington Senior Center from 12:30–3:30 p.m. The topics to be explored are:

- Credit reports
- Services from local banks
- Legal issues of seniors
- Refinancing
- How to choose a contractor
- Making home repairs
- Transportation issues

The Seminar is sponsored by the Great Barrington Council on Aging, Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority, and the H.O.M.E. Program, and several participating banks. Registration is suggested but walk-ins are welcome. To preregister call Terry Koldys at the Great Barrington Council on Aging (413) 528-1881.



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## Waste Bans at Transfer Station

As of April 1, 2000, cathode ray tubes (CRTs: i.e., television tubes, computer monitors) have been added to the list of restricted materials at Massachusetts's solid waste transfer stations. For your convenience, a separate receptacle will be available for this material at the Monterey Transfer Station. Please ask the attendant for details. In order to comply with the Waste Ban Regulations, please be sure no recyclable items are intermingled with your trash. For a list of recyclable materials, please call the Monterey Town Hall, 528-1443.


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## Sandisfield Arts Center Summer 2000 Series

The Sandisfield Arts & Restoration Committee will present six programs this summer at the Sandisfield Arts Center on Hammertown Road off Route 57 in Sandisfield.

The season begins on May 13 at 4 p.m. with a showcase of talent by children ages five through eighteen from the Farmington River Regional School area.

On June 17 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Pergolesi's comic opera, *La Serva Padrona* (The Maid as Mistress), will be performed in English by George Preston of Tolland and Crystal Cattar-Beddan of Florida. The afternoon performance is geared toward families and is free to all.

On July 22 at 8 p.m., friends of the late Bill Crofut will stage a special concert to benefit the Bill Crofut Arts Fund for Children. Performers include Ben Luxon, Chris Brubeck, Joel Brown, Jim Cowdery, Carver Blanchard, and Maggie Holtzberg.

Yankee Notions, an acoustic folk music duo, will perform on August 19 at 8 p.m. On September 10 at 2 p.m., *Morning Pro Musica* host, Robert J. Lurtsema and guitarist, Peter Clemente team up to offer poems, stories and music to delight all ages. All tickets are $12.50. Children under twelve are admitted free of charge.

On October 14 at 8 p.m., Judith Davidoff performs in a special "coffee house series" on the lower level of the Arts Center.

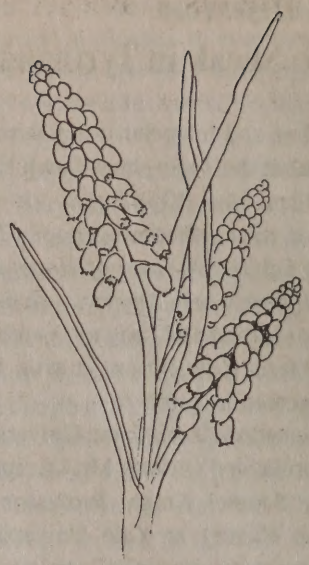
The program is entitled, "Travels with My Fiddles." *La Serva Padrona,* Yankee Notions, and "Travels with my Fiddles" are sponsored in part by grants from the Sandisfield Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

The Sandisfield Arts Center originated as a Baptist Meeting House in 1839. In the early 1900s it became the only known rural synagogue in the state of Massachusetts. In 1995, the Sandisfield Arts & Restoration Committee was formed to restore the building for use as a community arts center. The group has received grants from the National Trust and the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Restoration of the roof will be completed at the end of April.

For the first time, a discounted subscription to the performance series is available for $45. Subscribers who order by May 26 will receive a free compact disk from Signature Sounds. For tickets or more information, call 258-3309.

## Lake Garfield Association Eco Tip for May

*Conserve water for summer,*
*Flush less every day,*
*A weight in the toilet tank,*
*Helps the drought stay away.*



## Memorial Service for Joan Woodard Reed

Services will be held for the late Joan Woodard Reed on Saturday May 20, 2000, beginning at 2 p.m. at the Monterey Meeting House. There will be internment ceremonies at Corashire Cemetery followed by refreshments and reflections back at the church. Contact Timothy Reed, (860) 535-3050, for any questions. Contributions in Joan's name to the Monterey Meeting House, P.O. Box 182, Monterey, MA 01245, are greatly appreciated.

— Timothy R. Reed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# The Benefits of Recycling

Massachusetts environmental officials are encouraging people to continue to observe the spirit of Earth Day, whose 30th anniversary was celebrated on April 22, with a renewed commitment to recycling.

Every individual who recycles helps to preserve natural resources, to minimize the trash that ends up at landfills and incinerators, and to curb the municipal cost of solid waste disposal. At the same time, recycling lessens energy consumption, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and delivers cleaner air, cleaner water, and jobs.

"Everyone who takes a few a minutes to fill the bin and take it to the curb contributes to the many economic and environmental benefits of recycling," said Secretary of Environmental Affairs Bob Durand.

"The Massachusetts recycling success story proves once again that seemingly small, individual commitments taken together can achieve remarkable results," said Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Lauren A. Liss.

Recycling across Massachusetts annually:

- Cuts greenhouse gas emissions by 889,000 metric tons of carbon equivalent, an amount equal to 15.4 percent of all industrial carbon dioxide emissions in the state;

© Wayne Dunlop

- Saves 26.2 trillion BTUs of energy, enough to power 140,000 homes;
- Reduces airborne pollutants by 93,000 metric tons;
- Reduces waterborne pollutants by 8,200 metric tons; and
- Provides employment for more than 12,000 Massachusetts residents.

Manufacturing products from recycled rather than virgin materials also provides significant benefits. For example, it takes 80 percent less energy to produce an aluminum can from recycled materials than from virgin ores.

Residents can call 1-800-800-6881 or visit DEP's web site—http://www.state.ma.us/dep—for current information on how, what, when, and where to recycle in any Massachusetts city or town.

The following details the benefits produced by recycling in Monterey:

**Greenhouse Gas Reduction: 91** (the reduction of gases that contribute to the "Greenhouse" effect in metric tons of carbon equivalent).

**Energy Savings: 2010** (energy savings in millions of BTUs).

**Equivalent Households: 11** (the number of households that could be powered for a year with the energy savings achieved by the municipality's recycling program).

**Air Emissions Reduction: 221** (the reduction of overall air pollution in metric tons).

**Water Emissions Reduction: 1** (the reduction of overall waterborne pollutants in metric tons).

*This article was submitted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and Department of Environmental Protection.*


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# Rep Rap

The Fiscal Year 2001 budget debate in the House of Representatives is over and it was a successful year for the Berkshires in the budget.

Among the amendments I included in the budget were a $10,000 increase to the Berkshire County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program operated out of the Berkshire Juvenile Court. The CASA program operates in North Adams, Pittsfield, and Great Barrington and provides intensive training for volunteers who serve as guardians ad litem for children who are before the court for issues surrounding abuse, neglect, or significant family dysfunction. I was also able to earmark $35,000 for the Housing Mediation Program at the Berkshire Regional Housing Authority. This program provides services to over 1,200 Berkshire County households who are in dispute resolution. Furthermore I included language directing the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to construct a handicapped fishing pier at Laurel Lake.

I worked closely with Mount Washington town residents and DEM Commissioner Peter Webber's office to craft language to protect Mount Everett. A compromise was reached on the language and the amendment was adopted. I was also successful in securing an additional $28,530 for the Southern Berkshire Registry of Deeds to meet the increased needs involved in operating the office. My final amendment that was adopted was the approval of $66,232 for the Town of Great Barrington to recoup the expenses incurred in recovering Shirley Palmer during the January 25, 2000, snowstorm that claimed the life of the young girl.

Now despite what you hear about the party-like atmosphere in the House I can assure you that I and many other representatives were working hard to insure nothing was tucked into the budget during the predawn hours. I was successful in blocking a proposed pay hike amendment that would boost the salaries of several House committee chairmen, vice chairmen, and ranking Republican Committee members. This violates a rule of the House that prohibits matters affecting the compensation of the members of the General Court from being acted upon by the House in the thirty days preceding the date set for filing nomination papers for election. The filing deadline is May 2. I also stood against an amendment that eliminates a provision in the state law that prohibits lobbyists from dividing their fees among employees to avoid having to disclose their expenses. Currently firms are required to make such disclosures if they spend more than $5,000 a year on lobbying activities. The amendment would no longer require lobbyists to report how much they spend on public relations, printing, mailings and advertising. These expenses are an important indicator of the influence of special interest groups. The amendment was passed at 2:30 a.m., and I moved reconsideration. I said on the floor of the House that the amendment "turns back the clock on fair and open governing." My motion for reconsideration failed, and the amendment was included as part of the budget.

I was the cosponsor on several amendments that were also adopted in the last day of the session, including the establishment of a $10 million bond program to assist cities and towns in purchasing firefighter equipment, directing an associate judge in the Housing Court to conduct a sitting once a week within Berkshire, Hampshire, and Franklin Counties, and expanding the personal needs allowance from $60 per month to $72 for seniors who receive Medicaid and reside in nursing homes. The amount had not been changed in ten years. I was also a cosponsor on successful amendments to increase the funding for Councils on Aging by $1.7 million and to increase breast cancer research funding from $250,000 to $500,000.

This year's budget makes substantial gains in fulfilling our requirements to fund local aid and public education, both major priorities for me. Chapter 70 money is increased by $159 million, and $48 million in additional unrestricted assistance will go back to the communities through the Lottery Aid.

Other highlights of the budget are an increase of $8 million to fund regional school bus transportation and an increase of $3 million for the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for communities with state-owned land.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

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## Senator Says

**Personal Exemptions on 1999 State Income Tax Returns:** Several constituents have called to ask why the instructions for state income tax returns for the 1999 tax year have a section entitled "Increase in Personal Exemptions," when the amount of the exemption appears to be decreased from the 1998 tax year. For an explanation, one must go back to the instructions for the 1998 returns:

Personal exemptions amounts have been increased for tax years 1998 and 1999 due to the enactment of two legislative bills. The first bill provides for a permanent increase in the personal exemption amounts phased in over the 1998 and 1999 tax years. The second bill provides for a tax reduction through an additional temporary increase in the personal exemption amounts for the 1998 tax year. Due to the onetime temporary increase, the exemption amounts for 1998 will be higher than those for 1999 (1998 DOR Form 1 Checklist, p. 4).

The good news is that the permanent increase in the personal exemption has allowed a substantially higher tax cut for all taxpayers compared to 1997 and previous years. For instance, married couples filing jointly have a personal exemption amount of $8,800 for the 1999 tax year, compared to $5,260 in 1997. The increased personal exemption is a targeted tax break that makes a real difference for working families and seniors in Massachusetts.

**Non–Group Health Insurance:** On March 30, I voted with my Senate colleagues to amend the non–group health insurance law. Non–group health insurance plans are geared toward individuals who do not have access to health insurance through an employer, Medicare or Medicaid, or a small group. In 1996, the legislature reformed the non–group health insurance law to address problems faced by those with preexisting conditions who were denied health insurance coverage. The 1996 law created a single, standard non–group policy which offered a broad range of benefits including emergency, hospital and physician services, preventive care, and prescription drug coverage. As a result of that law, non–group plans were accessible to every individual who wished to purchase one. The premiums, however, were more expensive than non–group plans sold prior to 1996.

The bill passed by the Senate last month allows non–group health insurance carriers to create an alternative plan with benefits and deductibles differing from the standard plan presently available. The alternative plan would most likely offer a less comprehensive policy at a lower price, and would most likely not include benefits such as prescription drug coverage.

I have heard from a number of constituents who are having extraordinary difficulty finding affordable health insurance. Providing accessible, affordable health insurance to individuals who do not have access to an employer-sponsored plan or Medicare or Medicaid remains a complicated, difficult issue. This bill will address the problem faced by individuals who are unable to afford the standard non–group plan now available, especially those who may not need comprehensive health care services, including prescription drug coverage.

**Health Insurance for Small Businesses and Working Families:** Many small businesses and workers in western Massachusetts are not yet aware of the Insurance Partnership and Family Assistance programs available through the state's Division of Medical Assistance. These programs help to bring down the cost of health insurance for both businesses and their employees who meet income guidelines. Under the Insurance Partnership program, businesses which employ fewer than fifty people and provide comprehensive health insurance for their employees can receive payments of up to $1,000 a year for each qualified employee. Gross annual family income for the family of an employee in a four-person household cannot exceed $34,104, for instance. (To qualify, the small business must also pay at least 50 percent of the cost of the insurance.)

The same income guidelines apply to the Family Assistance program. This program pays most of the monthly health insurance premium for qualified employees, reducing the employee share to a low monthly rate. In most cases, a family with children would pay $10 per child, up to a maximum of $30 per family (including parents). Families without children pay $25 per adult; $50 per couple.

For more information on the Insurance Partnership program, call 1-800-399-8285. For information on the Family Assistance Program, call 1-800-841-2900.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.


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# Breaking Ground at Gould Farm

When I was thirteen, my parents decided to build an addition to our house. We lived in a small town of fewer than a thousand people, a twenty-minute drive from Atlantic City. Our house was a former vacation home, built in the 1930s by a well-to-do man who enjoyed summers at the Jersey shore. It was a great house in many ways, but it had one major flaw. The children's bedrooms were either too small or poorly heated.

My mother wanted a small addition containing a couple of spacious, well-heated bedrooms. My father did not believe any change was necessary. My mother, in her gentle way, returned to the subject again and again. Goaded beyond endurance, my father finally agreed to join her in visiting local architects. After many visits, he was left unsatisfied by all of them. Then my father crossed the line between ordinary and extraordinary reasoning, for better or for worse. "All right," he said, in effect. "We'll do what *you* want. But we'll do it *my* way." He insisted that he would design the addition himself. To save money, we would build it with our own hands.

The build-it-ourselves part of the decision came as a bombshell. My father was in his early fifties, and had been born with a crippled arm. My mother was about his age, and completely at a loss when it came to the hard sciences or home repair. I was thirteen. My sisters were twelve and eight.

The design my father created was immense, much larger and more complex than my mother ever envisioned. And it seemed especially overwhelming piled on top of our other responsibilities. My father worked something like fifty hours a week at his government job. My mother was back in school, making the transition from housewife to schoolteacher. We children were expected to continue our habit of getting all A's in school, and so spent long hours doing homework until it was perfect.

For a long time, our family followed a most inflexible routine. Each weeknight, after my father came home from work, we would do a couple of hours of work on the addition, often under the glare of floodlights. Every Saturday and every Sunday, we would devote the entire day to it—ten hours or so. We followed this routine fifty-two weeks a year for three years. Much later, when the work was well under way, my father, in a more objective and humorous mood, called it "The Folly."

The whole experience caused me to avoid building projects like the plague for many year to come. When I was in my late teens, my father died and our family moved to the suburbs of Philadelphia. Little did I dream that I would find myself, once again, in the country, on a farm, where they still believe in the idea of homespun, do-it-yourself building projects.

About a year ago, I became a patient, or "guest," at Gould Farm. This spring, as other community members started talking animatedly about the new barn for our Harvest & Trades Center, interest stirred within me, almost against my will. Despite "the folly" that I had been happy to abandon, I felt drawn to become involved. This time, however, it wouldn't be as an amateur builder, but in the more removed and safer position of reporter-at-large.

I agreed to cover the groundbreaking ceremony, as much to re-educate myself as to inform potential readers. I spent several days prior to it dipping into a book I had bought on building small barns. Then, on Saturday, April 15, I strolled over to the site, good and early, carrying pen and paper and my trusty (if borrowed) tape recorder, to capture the event in words. No one could have asked for a better day for the ceremony. It was warm and beautiful; spring seemed to have finally broken winter's strong grip. And spring, the season of weddings, seemed a very fitting time to celebrate a partnership—in this case, not between a man and a woman, but between three organizations with (on the surface) seemingly little in common: Gould Farm, the Timber Framers Guild, and the Massachusetts Portable Sawmill Owners.

The event went without a hitch, with the possible exception of the shape of the shiny new ceremonial shovel, trimmed with gold ribbon, which was square-edged instead of rounded. "The guys"—Brian Snyder of the farm, Joel McCarty of the guild, and Jim Clarke of the sawyers—managed to thrust the shovel in at an angle, bringing up a hefty scoop of black earth. Onlookers cheered.

The crowd shuffled over to the second ceremony of the afternoon—a ribbon-cutting to mark the completion of a new cheese-making addition to our dairy barn. After Wayne Burkhart, our farmer, spoke on cheese and its significance to "work as therapy," we gorged on cheeses, some donated from local producers, and toured the addition to inspect the shiny white and washable walls and new equipment.

Later, I cornered McCarty for a taped interview, and asked him why the Guild chose to work with Gould Farm. "What we want," he explained, "is to find ourselves in a circumstance where we're really needed and where what we're building is going to fulfill a need

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or a dream for a community that already exists. I don't want to just ride into town and build something and drive away. I want to make something that I know is necessary and I know is going to be valued for, hopefully, hundreds of years. It wasn't a very hard sell, once I understood Gould Farm"

He continued: "The other thing we do is a little subtler, but much more powerful. We convince people in the places where we go that, really, nothing is impossible, and that through collective action, or community action, you can do just about anything."

This last helped me see how such dissimilar organizations—and people—can come together on a project. As we know at Gould Farm, we're really not so dissimilar after all.

The new barn will take months to construct. The climax will doubtless be the scheduled barn-raising event on July 29. But amateur builders, like me, know that there's a lot more to this project than a weekend's work. I hope to be following it—with pen and paper and borrowed tape recorder—every step of the way.

— "William," a guest at Gould Farm

*If you wish to learn more about Gould Farm, please visit our website at www.gouldfarm.org. If you wish to learn more about the Timber Framers Guild, please visit www.tfguild.org.*

*Remains of three-hundred-year-old white oak at Stevens Lake ravaged by Memorial Day tornado, 1995. (Photo courtesy of Richard Nault)*

## Memorial Day

There will be a Memorial Day ceremony held at the Monterey Veterans Memorial Park on Memorial Day, May 29, at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend and participate in this celebration in honor of our veterans and their families.

— Dean Amidon

## Monterey United Church of Christ News

With fond regards, we bid Keith Snow farewell at the end of April. His quiet, sincere presence will be missed. However, his theology has been one of searching, and we wish him well as he continues it.

The Reverend Howard Smith will be a temporary pastor for the summer. Howard is a retired pastor, and has been attending the church with his wife, Valerie, for a number of years. We hope to have the Reverends Lois Rose, Cara Davis, and Allen Macey share the pulpit as well. We will engage an interim pastor this fall.

We have already begun to discuss what the future of our small faith community might be. We are remaining open to all options in our discernment, trusting that God will lead us down the right path.

A farewell for Keith is being planned. Details will be announced later.

— Heidi R. Haverkamp

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## Forcing Her Gaze

*I'd gotten a bit behind,*
*what with a pint of rum*
*and cokes, and*
*in the dim hotel room*
*the Filipina was*
*really very pretty.*

*Her eyes glanced over*
*my room as mine*
*missed, but*

*then, by chance,*
*I looked at her,*
*deeply, right into her brown*
*Asian eyes.*

*"Oh, you force my gaze!"*
*she said, surprised*
*as I.*

— Peter Shepley

## Miracle on 32nd St.

*Signs that the saints abound:*
*Manhattan January*
*three degrees in the streets*
*icy wild knife of a wind*
*scarfed and layered and pitched*
*with the salts of the sidewalks*
*we spy with determining eyes:*
*Young Saint Fine*
*in black divine*
*in heavenly high heels*
*stepping like Jesus*
*through the slushy gutters*
*to the multitudes*
*with no trace or taint*
*from snowish muck*
*or civilized mire:*
*blessing this mess, I guess*
*in the mudra of admonishment*
*with her sideways stare*
*fully mascaraed*
*and full of love:*

— R. Zukowski

## Look At The Peace

*The geese swim with their young.*
*Spring has come and gone,*
*hardly a ripple in the wake.*

*All night squabbles,*
*the noisy waterfights'*
*result.*

*The sky returns the gesture,*
*an unperturbed blue.*

— Peter Shepley

## Last Night's Dream

*Forgotten dreams:*
*what smoke.*

*They push the blood.*
*They pull the blood.*

*Was is.*
*Is was.*

— Peter Shepley

## Full Moon

*Old white tennis ball wrapped in pastel chiffon,*
*sometimes. In the daytime, she wears purdah,*
*or the pale, powdered face of a Noh pearl.*

*In October, a hammered copper mirror,*
*an over-ripe peach in the eastern sky;*
*efficient in April: lit, and dressed for rain.*

*But the burgeoning moon of May is always*
*a birthday cake for Gautama, Buddha;*
*candles lit over sweet peaks of illusion*

— MaryKate Jordan

## Stars

*Each star*
*is a kiss*
*I would give you—*

*should others wake*
*to a starless night*
*you would be*
*lying in my arms*
*covered*
*with light.*

— A. O. Howell

## Metaphysics

*The soul has three eyes*
*said the old cook*
*and the body five*
*and, (slamming the lamb*
*on the table),*
*as I'm alive*
*five and three*
*make one.*

*Then the heart has four eyes*
*said the kitchen maid*
*and the head two*
*and (placing her face*
*in her apron)*
*if that is true,*
*I'm undone.*

*No, no, never mind,*
*said the old cook*
*(wiping her jowl on a towel)*
*they're all blind!*

— A. O. Howell

## The Cohesive Capacity of a Canine in Community

There is a peculiar phenomenon that occurs when one is carrying a baby, kitten, or puppy in one's arms along a public street. Recently I have experience the enchanting results of being with the latter, a small black eight-week-old puppy that gazes outward with affectionate brown eyes. As I cross Main Street in Great Barrington, a woman joins me in the crosswalk, patting the pup's head, chatting about her own dog at home. Navigating into the library to drop off several books, I am stopped again by several people, smiling and doting on this wagging wonder.

We take the back streets to the Community Store, where she charms the workers with a cherub muzzle and pulls some boots off the lower shelf. She trots back out to the sidewalk, and a man invites us into a clothing store to meet his dog, Ollie, who stays in the back. They wrestle, gnaw on each other's ears with mock growls and speak the language of canine that is universal in its familial diction. A wag good-bye, another friend, and we walk on past the bus stop. A woman fumbles through her purse and pulls a page from her calendar, handing me a picture of two lab puppies leaning on one another with visible grins. She holds my pup as I drop off some film, and I return to the sound of her laughing happily, as the dog cub licks her coat enthusiastically. We finish off our tour of town in the Yellow House Book Store, sniffing the white cat and entertaining two shy children on the porch as she chases a leaf left over from autumn. They giggle and cling to one another, whispering in sibling tones, and muster a muttered "bye." As I lift the tired pup into the car, she yawns with an audible squeak. I realize that this little animal is a marvel in her ability to touch others' lives, to chew down the barriers that can exist between a stranger and a comrade, to chase away the illusions that something important has to be done.

On a more typical day I can pursue errands rather anonymously in town, focused on how to most efficiently complete the tasks on my list—dropping off books, picking up groceries, mailing letters, cashing a paycheck. With a puppy following along, the vantage point drastically changes. I cannot be in a hurry to ignore the comments and compliments of other pedestrians or make her walk on a leash she still disdains. I am compelled to converse with the curious, to allow them to pet her fuzzy ears, and to accept the offered stories of their own pets, families, or funny anecdotes about animals. It is as if a type of magnetic lure exists in the juvenile forms of other species. Perhaps the eyes sparked in astonishment and the fumbling manner of prancing instead of walking remind us of a day cast far from our memory, a mirthful approach to living. The alluring quality of an animal provides a link between one mammal and the next, creating community among all the species and offering insight into being content with a full belly and a soft bed.

Written in gratitude for Shelby Rae, born February 2000.

— M. M. Hamilton

## Mother's Day and Town Meeting—in the UK

I have just returned from a visit to the UK, and I bring this report: It's no wonder so many Americans are unabashed Anglophiles. There's hardly anything anybody's tried over here that hasn't been just a sloppy version of something the Brits have been doing quieter, tidier, and sometimes a few centuries longer. Even Mother's Day comes in early April over there, instead of in May, and bedtime comes five hours earlier (so does breakfast).

I was visiting in Derbyshire (you pronounce it DARBYshire), which is picturesque, rural, agricultural, and increasingly touristy. The little town where I stayed is called Monyash, which refers to its wealth of ash trees (mony = many). In fact, there aren't many trees of any kind, but the ones that remain, after all sorts of clearing over the centuries, certainly are monuments. Against the blustery grey skies and rolling green sheep pastures, a single oak spreads out like a beach ball in shape. At this time of year, before the foliage, its branches and twiggery are almost curly looking. The movement and grace of these repeated curves and quirks is anchored by the sturdy calm of a three-hundred-year-old trunk. Or is it a thousand year old trunk? For a New Worlder like me, the math is nearly unmanageable. We are talking about time, here.


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Back home in Monterey, Joe and I have replaced the roof on our wooden house once already (after only seventeen years—wooden shingles), and in twenty-five years of fencing livestock on these hills I have put up new fencing more times than I want to think about. In Monyash the sheep are fenced with tall stone walls. The stones are pale, lumpy limestone, native to this part of what is called the Peak District. If you look for peaks here, you will see mostly outcroppings, long craggy ridges, and rolling hills. There are dales, too, of course, but nothing tall and pointy resembling what we would call a peak.

The Peak District is named for a tribe who once lived here called the "Pecsaetans," meaning "hill dwellers." Geologically, the Peak District is divided into the Dark Peak (dark gritstone or sandstone) and the White Peak (limestone). The sheep fences, churches, houses, barns, and outcroppings are all the same native lumpy limestone. I saw a chapel near Monyash, made of limestone, that was built in 1170. Twenty years later a twelve-foot wall was constructed around this chapel and other buildings. The owner had to apply for permission to build, which was granted by King John with the restriction that it could not be a crenellated wall. That might lead to fortification, and from King John's point of view, that was not an allowable use in this area.

Monyash reminds me of Monterey a little, though it is quite a bit smaller. It is still an agricultural village, but more and more people are converting the old barns to dwellings and driving an hour or more to work in Midlands cities like Chesterfield, Sheffield, and Nottingham. Tourists come and stay in B and B's here, drawn by the footpaths, the gorgeous walking in Lathkill Dale and along the nearby River Wye, and by the good clean country air.

One night in Monyash my friend and I walked over to the Women's Institute Hall for the Annual Parish Meeting. We'd gotten a notice a few days earlier, through the mail slot, telling us of the meeting, with its financial reports and local concerns—much like the warrant for our annual Town Meeting. But Monyash entices more villagers to turn out by providing a featured speaker, too. This time it was Dr. L. Phillips, of the Mining Museum in Matlock Bath, come to tell us about historic lead mining in the Peak District.

We learned that this part of Derbyshire has seen 3000 years of lead mining. The last mine to close down was right in Monyash, the Magpie Mine, and I had just been on a hike to see it that day. From 1600 to 1780, this part of the White Peak was the world center of the lead industry! As a national interest it was second only to the East India Company with its vast fleet of merchant ships which circled the globe in those days. Lead mining was exhausting, poisonous, lucrative work. Fields with mine workings humped up under the sod are not safe today for horse pasturing, nor for chickens, who will ingest little lumps of lead ore and die in a matter of about two weeks. Dr. Phillips referred to "sugar of lead," which he explained was lead acetate—the sweet element in lead paint.

Abandoned lead mine: The Magpie Mine
Monyash, Derbyshire, U.K.

I always look forward to the Monterey Town Meeting, and Mother's Day—also bedtime and breakfast. It doesn't bother me that all these things come later in the day than they might in England—I'm just glad I don't have to worry about my chickens and horses turning belly up in the pasture. And maybe my building permit was not signed by King John, but I have so many ash trees I don't even have to brag.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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## About Astrology
### Sun and Moon

The sign in which the Sun is located in an astrological chart suggests certain things about one's inner experience of self. The Moon's position in the birth chart refers to the personality through which that essential self is expressed.

While the Sun is in any given sign for about thirty days during the year, the Moon will move through all twelve signs in about the same amount of time. That is, someone born with the Sun in Taurus might also have the Moon in Taurus, or in any of the other eleven signs. The positive traits of the Sun sign indicate what the soul hopes to imprint upon the personality—the Moon sign—during the lifetime.

Traditional strengths of the Taurus Sun (April 20–May 20)? They include patience, love of the earth, self respect, respect for tradition, a potential talent for finance, a love of gardening, comfort with the body and all things physical, calmness, stability, stamina, and endurance.

How does each Moon sign need to grow? The Moon in Aries may be impulsive, and have a hot temper. In Taurus, the Moon may indicate a tendency to be stubborn, or to hold grudges. Gemini Moon can be a butterfly, flitting from interest to interest. Moon in Cancer may be thin-skinned, or have a difficult time in the role of receiver. Leo Moon dreams big dreams, hopes for great rewards.

In Virgo, the Moon tends toward self-criticism, concerns about health, and a tendency to worry. Libra Moon longs to live the ideals of harmony and justice, and brings a deep appreciatiopn of the arts. Scorpio Moon is like an emotional laser beam, powerful, focused, able to scorch a hole through lead or any obstacle.

A Sagittarian Moon placement can indicate a strongly felt need for freedom, high ideals and great discomfort with heirarchy. In Capricorn, the Moon often brings with it a sense that "less is more" in the emotional realm: a cool emotional nature, perhaps with workaholic overtones.

An Aquarian Moon may mistrust the physical world, or misunderstand the worth of worldly resources. And a Pisces moon can be so empathetic that self-confidence is almost completely unfamiliar.

Can you see how the traits native to the Taurus Sun can support the lessons which each Moon sign has to learn? The same applies to any of the Sun signs. Find the Sun's strengths, see how they best support the growth needed by the Moon.

— MaryKate Jordan

## Arthur Somers and Monterey

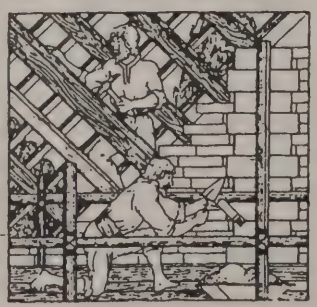
"He loved Monterey more than any place on earth," his wife, Alice, said.

From his earliest years, Arthur Somers (November 26, 1919–May 29, 1999) spent every summer in Monterey. Some still remember the lake and the village of the twenties and thirties, a sweeter, slower backcountry Norman Rockwell kind of place now mostly vanished into myth. Recently, his sister, Andree Ross, spoke extensively to me of those days and those ways.

"We looked forward to it all year, utter freedom. We took off our shoes the minute our feet hit the property and never put them on again except for church. We explored the thick pines covering our land, we swam all day long and were good swimmers. Dad built a raft and diving board, and we loved to swim under the barrels. There were always the boats in various states of disrepair, full of sand, oars missing. We watched the moon come up over the mountain, Mom played the piano and Dad, the violin. And there were the mysteries on the radio.

"Sunday was mostly taken up with church, going all the way into Barrington with the Irish maids, so Grandfather built Our Lady of the Hills Chapel on Beartown Road. We always invited the Protestant minister for Sunday supper and Wednesday dinner.

"When the Withington boys at the end of the lake arrived, the fun began. I had one friend in the village and we played by the brook behind Miners' place. We went to Bob Moses' store in town for

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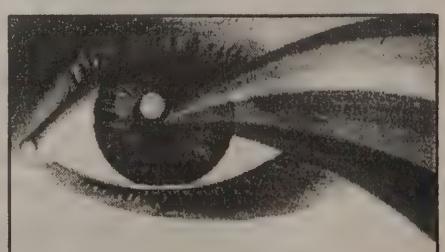

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ice-cream cones and later went to the square dances at the Grange with a professional caller and old-time fiddlers. They were run by WallaceTryon and his young wife. The town was dry; you had to go to Otis for liquor. We entertained ourselves and it was a great life!

"My grandmother's brother, Hyram Lawrence, stayed in the big house [now owned by the Kellys] all year round with only the shortwave radio for company. Then Grandmother arrived with her three women friends from the Brooklyn schools. Grandfather had endeared the family to them by fighting for equal pay for women back then. Grandmother also fought. She argued with the neighbors over the League of Nations. She said, 'It won't work until you talk to your neighbor across the street.' She called these cloudless summer days 'pet days'.

"Arthur was always so responsible! At the chicken farm we'd each be given an egg. I never made it home with the egg, but he always did. And he was always taking care of people. During our dating years if my beau of the evening had had too much to drink, he'd make sure I got home safely with him.

"Dad was a daring World War I pilot. He got together with Gus Graff and they put up the airfield in Barrington. Arthur had his double-wing propeller Kitty Hawk there. He had learned to fly at Floyd Bennett Field. We were flying at sixteen and fifteen. Even our brother Eddie, twelve, insisted on flying because he had to do everything we did. We called him 'tail light'. Arthur flew all over. People were so kind; they helped us by painting rooftop arrows. And we watched the wind sock at the end of each runway.

"When we were teenagers and driving, Mother would send us up from Brooklyn a few days early to make the beds and get a little food in before the maids and the rest of the family came. Of course, we headed straight to our tennis court and each day put off our chores. Mother had a fit when she arrived. Arthur was an excellent tennis player. [In 1947, he won the Marine Corps International Tennis Championship.] Being his younger sister, a lot of my tennis time was spent helping Arthur by retrieving balls and helping out in mixed doubles. 'Stay there, watch that alley, serve, and keep out of my way,' he'd say.

*Alice and Arthur with the Kitty Hawk, 1939*
*(Photo courtesy of Alice Somers)*

"Many evenings when we'd head into town for ice-cream cones Arthur would stay home reading or playing his trumpet, content to be alone with the lake. He was very creative, started his own band at Poly Prep in Brooklyn. One summer, my beau, (and later my husband) Tom Ross, came to visit and fixed up the old sailboat. Arthur really took to sailing and was out alone one day when a terrible storm blew up. We thought he was lost, he'd had so little experience, but he kept his head, tacked almost by instinct and made it home.

"I guess the most exciting thing that happened on the lake was the time the boat sank and the two maids almost drowned. We had decided to take the old boat to town for ice-cream cones instead of walking. Arthur was twelve,


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I eleven, and the two maids, fresh from Ireland were in their early twenties. Dad was down in Congress and my mother and my Aunt Janet were home. All went well on the trip to the store, but coming home the boat was riding lower and taking water. The maids, who didn't know how to swim, started to scream and rock the boat. The water came all the way up to the gunnels and the maids were shrieking prayers hysterically. Then the boat sank and I took off for shore thinking I'd get help, not realizing the noise could be heard easily all across the lake. Arthur kept the maids calm and made them hold onto the boat while he pulled and kicked it toward shore. Their wet clothing was really heavy, so it must have been slow going. Eventually Mother, Aunt Janet, Mr. Fargo and some other neighbors came out to help. The story made the *Berkshire Courier* and Arthur was declared a hero."

Arthur and Alice met in 1937 on the campus of Rosemont College in Pennsylvania, where he was at nearby Villanova. It was the perfect match. Alice, incredibly beautiful, pursued by many young men, was just seventeen and Arthur, at eighteen, was tall, blond, handsome, and playful yet sophisticated. He took her up in his plane on their first date and a love was born that was and is forever. Right away he said, "You must come and visit me at my family's place on Lake Garfield." She answered, "My father would never let me stay with someone he didn't know." He seemed a little taken back but answered, "My mother will write your mother a letter." And so Alice was introduced to Arthur's world of morning laps on the lake, canoeing in the old red and blue canoe (which we still have here at Rock Ridge), and rowing the old red longboat.

On September 12, 1942, when Arthur was fighting in World War II as a Marine dive bomber, they were married. Pam, Cindy, and Arthur III were born, and they stayed in the service five years after the war's end. It was a good life until Arthur was assigned to an aircraft carrier. In 1950, Arthur was flown home to his father's funeral and when he met Alice there they said, "Why are we living separately? The war is over." That was the end of active duty, although Arthur stayed in the reserves and was promoted to the rank of major.

Hilary was born and the family returned to wonderful summers here on the lake in various houses. Arthur was the head of tennis at Wyantenuck and often played with Albert Spalding and Sydney Greenstreet. There were parties at The Barn Club on Route 7, and continuous service to town and church. In 1979, the family bought Rock Ridge and for nineteen years worked to repair and restore it. "He loved the property and the grounds, never wanted to go anywhere else. We always had a fire; he loved home and hearth," Alice said.

My husband, Bob, and I met the Somers in September 1995 when we first looked at Rock Ridge. We bought the placed and became great friends. One day I asked Arthur why he felt he had made it back alive from the war when so many hadn't. He said, "I guess because I knew how to fly when I went in." That made a lot more sense to me later when I realized he had watched dozens of his fellow pilots die trying to return to their aircraft carrier. He was too modest to talk about the immense gift he had given his country, so I didn't know until I read his obituary that he had been given many medals including the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Fittingly, Arthur died on Memorial Day weekend. We lowered the flag to half-mast at his beloved Rock Ridge and the town gave the parade in his honor. His body rests in the absolute peace of Mount Hunger surrounded by ancient markers, stone walls, and mountain laurel. He lives on in all our hearts, and we each have our own very special memories of him. Alice called these clear summer days "the glory days at Rock Ridge." For me, the glory days were the four of us sitting on our magical porch every Saturday just being together. I will never forget.

— Ginny Duffy

Linda Rabiner Hebert
*Broker Associate, GRI, CRS, CRB*

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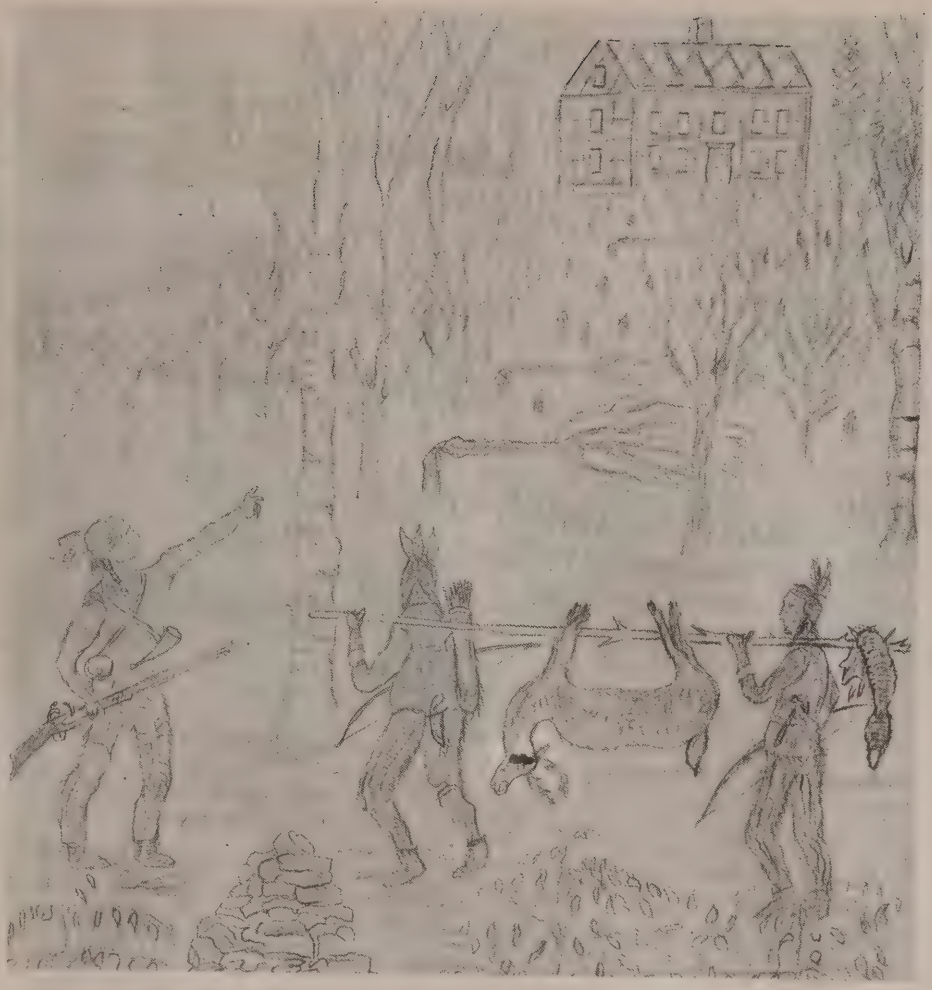
# The Bidwell House
## 250 Years Old



The turn of this century marks a milestone for the Bidwell House. The building began to take shape no less than a full quarter of a millennium ago. The post-and-beam frame could have been seen as the four walls were raised and joined with roof joists, standing out among the indigenous trees used in its construction. The structure was not completed for another two years, but then had a charmed life in the frontier wars that followed. The site was near an old Indian trail; the stone cairn trail markers can still be seen.

To place the year 1750 in the context of our national history, in that year George Washington, the future father of our country, was only eighteen years old. He would not become the first president of our newly independent nation for another thirty-eight years.

In 1750, however, trouble lay just down the road. King George II was the ruling monarch of England, and Louis XV his colonial rival in France. The year after the Bidwell House was completed, the two countries would fight for control of the New World in New England and Canada in the seven-year-long French and Indian War (1753-1760).

Fortunately, a friendly presence of Mahicans nearby provided a peaceful neutrality to this territory. The Bidwell House and others were spared burning in raids from northern tribes allied with the French. Other settlements further away, such as Deerfield, were not so lucky.

When Reverend Bidwell was finally able to move into his new house, Chief Konkapot was by then old for his time. He had already broken camp at his lodge of many years, next to a small brook just on the other side of what is now Beartown Mountain. Along with other remnants of the Mahicans, he had moved to Stockbridge, near the house of his friend, the missionary John Sergeant, a graduate of the Yale Divinity School.

Reverend Bidwell, also a product of the Divinity School, had been able to acquire some sixty to eighty acres to build his parsonage; there he used his religious training, to provide a Christian influence from his residence. In those circumstances, there was some semblance of a progression of buildings in the neighborhood. First came Brewer's sawmill, behind where the General Store now stands, then a meeting house, just below the Parsonage, and then a tavern, where Art School Road becomes Mt. Hunger Road. Not necessarily in the order of importance!

That the Bidwell House is the sole survivor of these buildings may be testimony to the quality of wood used in the construction. The main frame is chestnut, the wide floor boards are pine, and the roof shingles white oak. But an even stronger foundation to insure preservation for the future came about when it achieved historic stature and designation as an authentic colonial museum. Completely restored and meticulously furnished with furniture, utensils, fixtures, textiles, and personal possessions, the house has come alive again in a setting reflecting the frontier lifestyle.

The stewardship of the building was passed on from previous caretakers to the present forward-thinking management. From Director Anita Caroll-Weldon, President Christopher Sink, board members, benefactors, patrons, contributors, volunteers, and friends, the present message is that new members are vitally needed to broaden the base of support.

The Bidwell House has a full schedule of activities through the fall. Pam Johnson, a Monterey board member, and a computer programmer, has set up the Bidwell House on a worldwide web site: www.bidwellhousemuseum.org. Once on the web site, you will find a welcome at the electronic door of information, and can cross the threshold into local history.

— George Emmons

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# Have Needle; Will (Time) Travel

## Gige O'Connell: Gifted Teacher

Teaching is more about relationship than about the acquisition of information. Ask Gige O'Connell.

When she was a teacher at New Marlborough Central School in Mill River, Gige established strong relationships with her students, their parents, and her coworkers. Those relationships made her not only a gifted teacher, but also a receiver of gifts.

© Georgiana O'Connell

Three of the rooms in her house on Curtis Road hold cherished fiber-arts memories of past classes she taught at the New Marlborough School. This article focuses on the gift that brightens the wall over her kitchen table.

Even twenty years ago, Barbara Kerwin loved to quilt. As the 1981 school year drew to an end, she thought she'd make a wall quilt to thank the teacher for the happy year her son, Shawn, had had in second grade. So she designed, hand-appliqued, hand-quilted, and embroidered embellishments on a bright little wall hanging.

Only twenty inches high by nineteen inches wide, it's rich with meaning. A pair of traditional "sunbonnet kids" stand facing each other in the foreground. The boy with the baseball bat, of course, is Shawn Kinnell, and the girl carrying a book represents Brooke Loder. The families of both children lived at Gould Farm at the time, and Brooke was Shawn's best friend that year in school.

Behind them, near the schoolhouse, stands Mrs. O'Connell, beaming nearly as brightly as the sun in the sky which seems to benevolently watch over the stylized south-Berskshire landscape.

The wall quilt turned out to be a cooperative venture. Shawn picked out all twenty-six of the fabrics his mother used.

"Mrs. O'Connell always wears a green dress," Shawn told his mother as he chose the fabric for his teacher's dress. Gige admits being partial to green.

"I probably wore a green dress at least once a week that year," she said. She laughed, gazing fondly at the quilt as she sipped a cup of tea. "And there I am, red hair, green dress, and all."

Red hair, green dress, and a very gifted teacher, indeed.

— MaryKate Jordan


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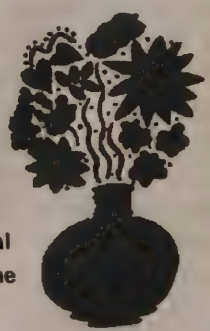

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## Good Neighbors

Something happened to me on Saturday, March 18, that I'd really like to share with the people of Monterey.

Being unfamiliar with the roads in your town, I ventured onto one of the "roads less travelled" and became hopelessly mired down in a sink hole. After several foolishly futile attempts to free my car, I set out to find a phone. Unfortunately, most of the residences on the road were summer homes, and nobody was at home in the others. About a mile and a half later I located a phone and called a friend. He tried valiantly, but still without success. I had visions of my poor car being bogged down until July—then blasted out!

I was dripping with mud by now, and reluctant to impose myself (and my mud) on anyone's house to make another phone call. Then I realized that Gould Farm was nearby. I had worked there many years ago, and knew it to be a place that never turned its back on someone in trouble—a place that would care less about a clean floor than about being helpful. I was not disappointed.

While I was calling for a tow truck, Steve Snyder, a staff member at the Farm, suggested he try to pull me out with his F250 pickup. It took over an hour and three attempts (in which Steve put his own truck in jeopardy twice), before I was finally free. When I offered him something in appreciation for his kindness and the wear on his truck, Steve refused, saying that if he ever has car trouble in my neighborhood then I can help him.

You folks in Monterey are lucky to have such neighbors. In this graceless day and age it sure is wonderful to find that some of the old values still do exist.

— June Johnson

# Remembering Gladys Dunlop

E. Gladys Dunlop, 83, of Beartown Road died Sunday, April 9, at home.

Born in Worcester on November 7, 1916, daughter of Ernest and Eva McIntosh Robbins, she was educated in schools there and graduated from high school in Chicago.

She and her husband, Ed, shared twenty-two years of service to Gould Farm.

Mrs. Dunlop enjoyed the arts, including painting, ceramics, dance, music and gardening.

She and her husband would have celebrated their sixty-first wedding anniversary on August 6. They were married in Chicago.

Besides her husband, she leaves six sons, Christopher Dunlop and Wayne Dunlop, both of Monterey, Brian Dunlop of Waltham, Stephen Dunlop of Macomb, New York, Craig Dunlop of Sterling, and James Dunlop of Worcester; a daughter, Janice Dunlop of Amherst; thirteen grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

The funeral was Thursday, April 13, at Monterey Church. Burial followed in Corashire Cemetery, Monterey. Donations may be made to Gould Farm or to Elder Services, both in care of Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main St., Great Barrington, MA 01230.

## Thanks to Fire Department

My family and I thank the Monterey Fire Department's emergency team for their very prompt response to our 911 calls and for their great effort to try to save Gladys's life. As sad and frightening as that trauma was, you helped me feel the warmth of your friendship. Thanks.

— Ed Dunlop


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## Personal Notes

Birthday greetings to **Cora Jay Baker** on the 3rd, **Douglas Brown** on the 6th, **Eoin Higgins** on the 8th, **Tarsi Dunlop** on the 9th, **Eileen Schlichter** on the 11th, **Judah Piepho** on the 17th, **Deirdre Higgins, Tess Dunlop,** and **Isaiah Schulze** on the 22nd, **Chris Goldfinger** on the 26th, **Alexandra Newman** on the 29th and **Mary Makuc** and **Bob Schlichter** on the 31st.

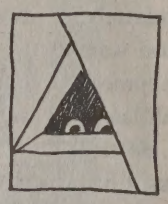
Happy Anniversary to **Arnold and Kay Pratt** on the 6th, **Bill and Jeanne Zad** on the 7th, **Ken and Erica Pratt** on the 8th, **Alf and Lena Pedersen** on the 22nd, **David and Nancy Brady** on the 27th and **Bob and Eileen Schlichter** on the 30th.

Congratulations to **Nancy and David Brady** on the birth of their son, **Phillip David,** on March 9. The Bradys are part of the **Quisenberry** family of Bidwell Road, and Phillip and big sister **Karla** are member of the fourth generation to share in the Lake Garfield/Monterey community.

Since we are in a celebration mode, let's congratulate those Monterey students making the honor roll at Mt. Everett for the second quarter. Grade 8, High Honors: **Christina Vallianos;** Honors: **Jessica Hupp** and **Carly Thomas.** Grade 9, Honors: **Claire Mielke.** Grade 10, Honors: **Sudi Baker.** Grade 11, High Honors: **Hannah Bracken, Kate Vallianos;** Honors: **Kimberly Gero** and **Andrew Shaw.** Grade 12, Honors: **Shanna Hamm.**

And speaking of honors, **Kate Vallianos** is the recipient of the Xerox Award in the Humanities/Social Sciences. This award is given for scholarship in the humanities or social sciences, leadership, and community service. Congratulations Katie!

We're not done yet! Congratulations to **Emily Sottile** on her acceptances to Loyola University, Rhodes College, Webster University, Hunter College, American University; **Shanna Hamm** on her acceptances to Florida Institute of Technology, University of Arizona, and the University of Oklahoma; **Amanda Thieriot** on her acceptance to Berkshire Community College. And also to **Ben Dupont**—the young man who packs your pastries Saturday mornings at the Monterey General Store—on his acceptances to Hawaii Pacific University, University of Rhode Island, and Virginia Polytechnic Insitute. Decisions, decisions.



All that work and no play? No way! The Mt. Everett Eagle Players presented *South Pacific* on March 30, 31, and April 1 and 2. Monterey was well represented by **Kate Vallianos** as Ensign Nellie Forbush (on Friday and Sunday), **Emily Sotille** as Bloody Mary (also on Friday and Sunday), **Andrew Shaw** as Professor, **Shanna Hamm** as Capt. George Brackett, U. S. Navy. On **Kate's** alternate shows she played Ensign Marlene Streeter. They all played Seabees, sailors, Marines, islanders or French Girls as needed. Technical Director was Mt. Everett alumna and Monterey resident **Jen Brown.** Sorry you missed it? *Annie Jr.* (an abridged *Annie*) will be performed by 5th-8th grade students May 19–21. Monterey players are **Adam Schoenfarber, Dinah Mielke, Cora Baker, Emily Shaw,** and **Darah Thomas.** Once again **Jen Brown** is lending her expertise. Monument Mountain presented *Crazy for You* the weekend of April 7th. Here too, Monterey contributed significantly to the cast and crew. **Deirdre Higgins** played Polly Baker. **Christina Temenos** was Miss Perkins. **Maggie Clawson** did set painting. **Emma Kales** played violin in the pit orchestra. With all this talent in town shouldn't there be a Monterey Musical Revue?!

**Monterey Personal Notes circa 1970:** Miss Bonnie Walsh, sponsored by Millie's Beauty Shop, and Miss Christine Heddleson, sponsored by the First Agricultural Bank, are our local candidates for Queen of the Laurel Festival. Give them both your support!

**1980:** Cub Scouts: The following boys from Monterey received awards: Douglas Brown, Gold and Silver arrows; John Blanchard, Gold Arrow; Steven Funk, Gold and Silver arrows; Joel Kalodner, Gold and Silver arrows; Fred Vorck, Gold and Silver arrows; and Scotty Sheridan, Wolf Badge.

**1990:** Hats off to Natasha Grotz, who received the 1990 Headmaster's Award as outstanding student at Waterville Valley Academy where she is a winter semester student.

If you have any items for this column, don't be shy. Send them to me at POB 211 or call 528-1871. Thank you.

— Deborah Mielke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## Calendar

**Saturday, May 6,** Annual Town Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Monterey Firehouse.

**Sunday, May 7,** Trail Clean-up Day, 2:00 p.m. at The Bidwell House, Art School Road, Monterey. To prepare for our trail dedication ceremony, we need a crew to help clear the trail. Refreshments provided. For information call 528-6888.

**Saturday, May 13,** *Impressions Of Home: Threads & Thresholds* Theatrical Women's History Tour Series, 5:30 pm, outdoors at The Bidwell House, Art School Road in Monterey. The Bidwell House Museum and Bigger Light Theater Company present the first in a three-part series of programs celebrating the extraordinary lives of ordinary women. Rediscover the everyday lives of women of the past through an original and creative light. Written and performed by Berkshire County women. Admission: Adults $12, Children: free. For information call 413-528-6888

**Sunday, May 14,** Don't forget today is Mother's Day!

**Tuesday, May 16,** Free blood pressure clinic, 9:00–10:30 a.m., basement of Town Offices, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

**Thursday, May 18,** Seminar for Seniors, 12:00–3:30 p.m., Great Barrington Senior Center. Information 413-528-1881. See p. 5 above for details.

## Contributors

We are grateful for recent contributions from

Richard & Violet Hardisty
Anne Marian Weinberg
Joseph & Lynne Quagliata
Janet Ansbro
Gerald & Midori Curtis

---

**Saturday, May 20,** Lecture, 8:00 p.m., Tyringham Town Hall. Historian John Demos will speak on an early 19th-century school for Indians in northwestern Connecticut. See p. 5 above for details.

**Saturday, May 27**

Dancers Dance, Monterey Firehouse. Fifteen-piece Big Band Swing Orchestra, good eats, great fun! Information 413-528-2982.

Square and contra dancing, 8:30-11:30 p.m. at the Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Jim Gregory. All dances are taught, and beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults $5, children $2. Information 413-528-9385.

The Bidwell House opens for the season for house tours, 11:00–4:00. Admission: $5 for adults, $ 4 for seniors and students, $ 1 for children. The Bidwell House is at 100 Art School Road, Monterey, MA. For information call 528-6888.

**MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Sunday Service · 10 a.m.**

**in the Meeting House**

**For Information and Assistance:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Steve Snyder at Gould Farm | 528-1804 |
| MaryKate Jordan | 528-5557 |
| Dick Tryon | 528-0728 |


## The Observer

### March 26—April 25, 2000

| | |
|---|---|
| High temp. (4/17) | 75° |
| Low temp. (4/10) | 25° |
| Avg. high temp. | 54.5° |
| Avg. low temp. | 33.3° |
| Avg. temp. | 43.9° |
| High wind gust (4/6) | 34 mph. |
| Total precipitation (rain and melted snow) | 5.21" |
| Snowfall | 9.5" |

Precipitation occurred on 19 days.

## Transfer Station Hours

Sunday ..... 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday .... 8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday ..... 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

*Through the Looking Glass: Threads & Thresholds*: Theatrical Women's History Tour Series, 5:30 p.m., indoors at The Bidwell House, Art School Road, Monterey. The Bidwell House Museum and Bigger Light Theater Company present the second in a three-part series of programs celebrating the extraordinary lives of ordinary women. This program is a unique tour that bears witness to the interplay of memories and artifacts. Written and performed by Berkshire County women. Admission: Adults $12, Children: free. Reservations advised. For information call 413-528-6888.

**Monday, May 29,** Memorial Day. Town Offices closed.

**Saturday, June 3,** Millennium Trail Dedication & Family Hike, 1:00 p.m. at The Bidwell House, Art School Road, Monterey. A dedication of the Meeting House/Interpretive Trail as part of the White House Millennium Community Trails Designation. The event is geared for families and will include a guided hike of the trail focusing on the natural history of the area. Peter Jensen of OpenSpace Management will talk on the forest management of The Bidwell House property. Free admission. Information 413-528-6888.

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Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (on PC disk if possible) by the fifteenth of the month before publication, addressed to the attention of the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the *News* by mail (free!) to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager. We will typeset a text-only ad for your Monterey-based business, service, or event, or advertisers may submit an ad with graphics on a PC formatted disk. Address your request for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us in Monterey at 413-528-4347.

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*Contributions from local artists this month: George Emmons, p. 19; Bonner McAllester, p. 15; Glynis Oliver, pp. 3, 6, 8, 9, 13, 22*

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